To stop the imbalanced use of fertilizer due to the hike in price of DAP and other decontrolled fertilizers and to prevent any negative impact, Government provided a sum of Rs. 340 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 756 crores in 1993-94 for sale of these fertilizers at concessional rates to farmers.

Bee-keeping in Andhra Pradesh

2270. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage bee-keeping in backward areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what incentives will be offered to encourage bee-keeping;

(c) whether any proposal to form an Apex body to encourage bee-keeping;

(d) what specific assistance proposed to be extended to Andhra Prdesh to develop its full potential of honey production and bee-keeping; and

(e) whether any assistance in marketing is likely to be given by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have a proposal to encourage bee-keeping in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Government have a proposal to set up on Apex body at the national level for the development of bee-keeping. The said body is expected to—

(i) co-ordinate, promote, sponsor and support research, extension and development programme in bee-keeping in the country as an essential input for agricultural production;

(ii) promote and assist in infrastructural development for post-harvest handling, processing and marketing including export of honey and its products; and

(iii) advise the Govt. on policy matters involved in promotion of bee-keeping and related activities in the country.

(d) and (e) State-wise and component-wise assistance will be worked out after the proposal is approved and budgetary allocations made.

National Pulses Development Programme

2271. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the achievements of the National Pulses Development Programme and the Special Food grains Production Programme Pulses for the last three years;

(b) whether Pulses being brought under the purview of the Technology Mission has been beneficial and reasons therefor;

(c) what is the production target set for the current year;

(d) whether the recent floods in North India will affect the target of production and to what extent; and

(e) what are the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Targets and Achievements for pulses production are given below:

(Lakh tonnes)

Year	Targets	Production
1990-91	150.00	142.6
1991-92	155.00	120.5
1992-93	145.00	147.0 (Provisional)

(b) Pulses Production Programme has been brought under the purview of Technology Mission on Oilseeds w.e.f. August, 1990. Concerted efforts on Mission mode has resulted in a record estimated production of 147 lakh tonnes.

(c) The production target of pulses for 1993-94 is 155 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) Kharif Pulses production will be affected. While no accurate estimate of loss of pulses crop due to recent floods can be made at this stage, it will be endeavour of the Central Govt. to attempt to recoupe the loss by additional area and more intensive cultivation during Rabi/Summer.